



BRAZIL, ARGENTINA PARTNERS OF NEXT GTEF

Argentina and Brazil will be the partner countries of the Global Tourism Economy Forum next year

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RED MARKET TO BE REVAMPED

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SHOE-BOX RULE MAY CHEER HOME BUYERS

Putting an end to "shoe-box sized" apartments may be reason for residents to cheer, but developers are wary

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



MALAYSIA-THAILAND Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad met yesterday with Thailand's leader and discussed peace talks in Thailand's southern border provinces where a Muslim separatist insurgency has been raging for over a decade.

CAMBODIA A former prison chief for Cambodia's Khmer Rouge regime who has been sentenced to life in prison has been hospitalized with serious respiratory problems.

NORTH KOREA Leader Kim Jong Un's summits with the presidents of South Korea and the United States have not changed his country's abysmal human rights record, the U.N. independent investigator on human rights in the isolated Asian nation said.



INDIA Government forces killed two rebels during a gunbattle on the outskirts of disputed Kashmir's main city yesterday, sparking violent anti-India protests by residents, police said.

PAKISTAN has negotiated a USD6 billion assistance package of loans and deferred payments from Saudi Arabia in hopes of resuscitating its flagging economy, struggling under the weight of a whopping \$18 billion deficit.

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HKZMB DAY ONE

People queue to cross longest sea bridge

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Abe vows to bolster ties with China day before Beijing trip

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HKZMB

Fast border checks impress first bridge users

Julie Zhu

THE Macau and Zhuhai sides of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge have almost combined the Macau immigration control and mainland China immigration control into one single procedure, as the government authorities on both sides produced a new cooperative method.

Yesterday, at 9 a.m., the bridge officially opened to the public. The government led a group of journalists who visited the HKZMB Macau port before 9 a.m.

At the departure hall, inside each cell, four police officers, including two from the Macau immigration authority, and two from the mainland China's immigration authority, sat together, separated only by a half door.

This original style of passport control caused several people to forget to pass their travel document to the next immigration control officers, whether mainland or Macau, depending on whether these passengers are coming to or leaving Macau.

It takes approximately one minute, and less in most cases, for a person to cross from Macau territory to Zhuhai territory.

A man surnamed Cheng was the very first to enter the Macau Port. He was also the first arriving at the manual checkpoints. Cheng asked for a day off from his work to attend the HKZMB opening.

"I especially asked for a day off to come to try the new control checkpoint. More than ten years ago, when the Border Gate opened, I was also the first one crossing. I wanted to compare the differences between the che-



Border inspection

ckpoints back to more than ten years ago and the checkpoints as they are now," said Cheng.

"[We] need only one document to cross the two borders. This should be the first time in the world. I want to see how fast it is," said Cheng, remarking that "locals still need to line up in order to cross both borders. However, now the immigration checking can be done simultaneously."

Moreover, passengers need just to go through one security check on the Macau side when they cross over to Zhuhai, with the same situation applying on the Zhuhai side. This means that Macau will perform the security check on the Macau side of passengers who enter Zhuhai, while Zhuhai will perform the security check on the Zhuhai side of passengers who enter Macau.

Macau residents should use their mainland China home permit to cross from Macau to Zhuhai, and should use their Macau ID to cross from Zhuhai to Macau.

I especially asked for a day off to come to try the new control checkpoint.

CHENG

FIRST USER OF THE MACAU PORT

When expressing his opinions regarding the instructions, Cheng said that they "could be a bit clearer. Had I not been here last night, I would have entered [at] the wrong entrance," admitted Cheng.

Regarding the bus experience, one of the passengers onboard the first bus from Hong Kong to Macau, who was surnamed Ren and a Shenzhen resident, paid a visit to Hong Kong particularly in order to be one of the first tourists to use the HKZMB.

"I felt that it [the bridge] was



Queue prior to the opening of the bridge

shocking and that [...] our country is really strong," said Ren.

The Shenzhen resident said he, in the future, would choose to travel to Macau from Hong Kong by bus rather than by ferry.

According to the driver of the first Hong Kong-Macau shuttle bus, driving on the HKZMB is no different from driving elsewhere. However, the driver said that the view along the bridge is "very pretty."

According to statistics provi-

ded by representatives of the Public Security Police Force (PSP), the Macau Customs Services, and the HKZMB Macau port management bureau, as of 4 p.m. yesterday, 8,619 crossings were recorded at the HKZMB Macau port. More than 7,000 of these crossings were made between Hong Kong and Macau, while the rest took place between Zhuhai and Macau.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, 46 cars of all types entered Macau, while 59 left the city.

CONNECTION TO SHENZHEN WOULD BE GOOD FOR MACAU, HO SAYS

THE CHAIRMAN of the Legislative Assembly, Ho Iat Seng, believes that "it would definitely be a good thing for Macau" if the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) had another branch connecting to Shenzhen. According to a report by Macao Daily News, Ho said that the

HKZMB means "Macau has one more backyard garden," as people can now enter Hong Kong by the bridge. When commenting on the HKZMB, Ho further considered that "it is unreasonable to just talk about the investment and traffic flow, it should be the overall benefit."

HKZMB

Macau, Zhuhai begin cooperative health quarantine model

HEALTH quarantine facilities at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge were well equipped and prepared to administer services starting from the commencement of operations yesterday

morning, according to a statement from the local government.

To facilitate joint inspections for the one-stop border crossing operation model implemented at the bridge's border che-

ckpoint between Zhuhai and Macau, authorities in both cities are conducting a quarantine process for departing travellers, in accordance with a signed memorandum.

According to this new mo-

del, the health quarantine department in Zhuhai carries out the quarantine process for travellers as they depart for Macau, as required by the Macau SAR.

Any travellers who are suspected to be suffering

from an infectious disease or radiation overdose and decide to continue with entering Macau are passed to the Health Bureau of Macau for follow-up action. The same arrangement is applied in the reverse situation as the Health Bureau of Macau carries out the quarantine process for travellers as they depart for Zhuhai.

Outbound travellers suffering from fever or radiation overdose may choose

to return to their place of departure to receive medical treatment at their place of origin. This arrangement does not apply to travellers who have no symptoms of fever or radiation overdose.

The quarantine arrangement for passengers travelling between Macau and Hong Kong remains unchanged, in that both parties carry out quarantine processes for travellers upon entry.

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HKZMB OPENS TO TRAFFIC

Drivers note benefits but still 'a lot to improve'

RENATO MARQUES



First bus arriving to Macau from Hong Kong



First car arriving to Macau from Hong Kong

Renato Marques

THE Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) opened yesterday to the traffic of vehicles and passengers connecting the three cities after Tuesday's official inauguration by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The clock marked 9.15 a.m. when the first vehicle from the Macau side approached the immigration checkpoint on the way to the city of Zhuhai.

The driver, a Macau re-

sident named Sun, when questioned by the media about the procedures to obtain a license to circulate through the new bridge, said, "The procedures are not easy and it's necessary to deliver several documents from different parties, from Hong Kong and also from [the] mainland. But it's reasonable."

Sun said he intended to use the bridge often for business-related purposes such as participating in business meetings in both Hong Kong and Zhuhai.

A few minutes later the

second car arrived. Inside, the driver named Wu said Hong Kong was his destination. When questioned as to his opinion about the bridge, he said, "I think this bridge is very good, although I think the quota [settled] of 300 vehicles [for Macau] is too little."

Wu also noted that the expiration period of the license of just one year is also very short and that the licenses should be valid for a longer period, like in Hong Kong where they are valid for a period of three years.

He also revealed he was doing the trip for the first time as an experience. "I don't know exactly where the arrival point in Hong Kong is and how to get there."

A few minutes later, at the bridge arrival checkpoint, the first vehicle incoming from Hong Kong crossed the border successfully. Right behind it, a second vehicle also from the same neighboring region experienced a few issues that led to a longer wait.

Talking to the media, the driver named Chan explained, "I was stopped here waiting to enter [Macau] because I had made the booking for the parking lot starting at 10 a.m. and since the trip took me only 30 minutes to complete I arrived a bit too early," he said, noting that for this reason he had to wait before proceeding into Macau.

Although the traffic on the bridge registered during the first hours of operation was slow, it was possible to verify a few private vehicles as well as coaches and shuttle buses using the infrastructure. Most of those were travelling without any passengers as they were said to be doing some trial runs to test the system as well as travel times and conditions.

It was 10 minutes past 10 a.m. when the first passenger bus with Hong Kong visitors arrived at the checkpoint, a moment celebrated by the passengers cheering at the bus windows.

Macau residents call for more information and better connections

AT the departures and arrivals hall of the artificial island where the immigration checkpoint is located, many people were seen walking around seeking novelties and getting to know the venue.

Several of them told the Times that they didn't plan to travel to any of the neighboring cities on this day but, instead, to learn more and get to know more about the venue and procedures for a future travel opportunity.

Among them was a resident named Ian, who aired concerns about the return trip from Hong Kong, saying, "I don't know exactly how it works; I'm concerned that if I go to Hong Kong I cannot be certain to have a return trip to Macau. That's a bit scary." Ian noted that at the ticket counter, the staff representing bus operators were only selling one-way tickets.

"I think this bridge is very pretty and it's much better. I'm always afraid of getting unwell during the ferry trips. Sometimes when the weather is not that good

the ferry [trips] are not smooth and I get dizzy and nauseous. With the bus I think [it] is better, I feel more confident," he added, although he noted, "one problem I think is also the lack of connectivity from the bridge to Hong Kong city."

"I think they should improve that so we could get a bus here and reach the city with less hassle. Now it is not like that, it only goes to Lantau [Island]," Ian said.

Problems with connectivity, but this time to the Macau peninsula, were also a topic of discussion at the bus stops of the new bus routes 101X and 102X, with many residents who decided to visit the departure/arrival hall of the HKZMB complaining of the long wait for a bus that would take them back to the peninsula.

"It takes too long," a man said. "There are a lot of buses stopped right there [across the bus parking] but they have no drivers inside and we are waiting in this long line already for a long time," he complained.

opinion

A BRIDGE ALONE CAN'T UNIFY HONG KONG WITH CHINA

David Fickling, Bloomberg

What's the most important bit of infrastructure to connect an international metropolis like China's Pearl River Delta? A demolished border post.

For all the excitement around the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge yesterday, that's probably the best lesson to draw from Beijing's plan to draw Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong, Dongguan, Foshan and other cities into a single megalopolis. As my colleague Nisha Gopalan wrote last month, "Build it and they will come" is a lot easier said than done.

Take one model for the new link, the Oresund bridge and tunnel that's joined Denmark's capital Copenhagen to Malmo in southern Sweden since 2000. Like its Chinese equivalent, the 40-kilometer link opened with high hopes for turning two cities into one combined region. But even after Copenhagen's housing boom drove some Danes to cheaper property in Sweden, these days there are just 19,000 cross-border commuters — about 1 percent of the region's 1.8 million-strong labor force. Integration has been losing steam in recent years, according to a 2013 OECD paper.

Oresund is probably the best-case scenario for the 55-kilometer Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge. There are six or so key barriers to this sort of integration working: distance and cost; language; culture; legal differences; security worries; and formal border checks. Only the first two really hinder movement between Denmark and Sweden, but the Pearl River Delta is divided by almost everything except the Cantonese language — and even there, outside Hong Kong and Macau the lingua franca is increasingly Mandarin written in simplified characters.

Border checks are probably the most significant barrier. Consider Singapore and the neighboring Malaysian city of Johor Bahru. The city-state manages to build and maintain so many sparklingly clean buildings largely thanks to a migrant army of as many as 300,000 Malaysians who cross the causeway linking the countries each day on foot or scooter.

That mass daily migration is aided by relatively light passport controls and a distance of just 1 kilometer between the two sides — but despite the dreams of property developers, it's overwhelmingly a movement of low-income workers servicing a richer neighbor, rather than a genuine bilateral integration. Singaporeans are hardly queuing up to move: Just 1,346 availed themselves of a Malaysian program granting special visas to foreign property buyers in its first 15 years.

Even that scale of movement seems unlikely in the Pearl River Delta. There is resistance to immigration among the population in Hong Kong, a former British colony whose freedoms have been eroded since it returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. Besides concerns that new arrivals will dilute local culture and undermine Hong Kong's semi-autonomous status, the city has its fair share of plain old prejudice toward "mainlanders."

Migration is a fraught topic in local politics, with even the 150-a-day cap on one-way permits from the mainland regularly raising hackles. Rightly or wrongly, a situation in which Hong Kong saw a Johor-style army of guest workers arriving every day via Shenzhen and Zhuhai would be perceived by many locals as the end of "one country, two systems."

That's the best reason to doubt the dream of wider integration in the Pearl River Delta. If it did come about — in 2047, when Hong Kong's special status is due to expire, or sooner — the resulting unification of economic and political systems would probably be driven by the brute force of Beijing, rather than any burning homegrown desire. Many locals and outsiders would consider it the end of Hong Kong.

A vision in which people commute seamlessly between Shenzhen, Guangdong and Hong Kong seems as far away as one in which they criss-cross the transnational U.S.-Mexican border cities of San Diego-Tijuana and El Paso-Juarez without passport checks. Just this week, President Donald Trump promised to send in troops to stop migrants crossing the frontier. Borders aren't going down in the world of 2018. Quite the opposite.

Civil Servants association calls for 5pct salary increase

The Macau Civil Servants Association is calling on the government to increase the salary of civil servants by five percent in 2019. A group of ten members from the association visited the government headquarters to express their opinions regarding next year's policy address. According to lawmaker Pereira Coutinho, the association hopes that cash handouts can be increased to MOP12,000; subsidies given to the elderlies can increase to MOP10,000; and social security fund retirement pensions can reach MOP5,000. The association also urged the government to build eight public houses in the future.

Ho Chio Meng dismissed from his position

Macau's former top prosecutor, Ho Chio Meng, has been dismissed from his position, according to a dispatch published on the Official Gazette. Ho Chio Meng has been sentenced to jail for 21 years as a result of 1,092 convicted accusations in total. Before Ho was convicted to a jail sentence, he served as an assistant prosecutor. According to Macau's law, if a person involved in a dismissal decision is a prosecutor, then the dismissal has to be reported to and approved by the central government.

Industry hopes to bring coffee culture to universities

Julie Zhu

A forum named "Macau Enterprises Immersing in the Greater Bay Area" and the Yunnan Coffee Cup 2018 - China Brewers Championship in Macau were held this week at the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM).

Young local ventures such as Seng Pan International Limited and Father Tong Tea Industrial Co. Ltd, were invited to share their experience and knowledge.

After the forum, an official coffee-brewing competition, organized by China Coffee League (CCL), was held.

More than 20 students from the University of Macau and the City University of Macau participated in the coffee brewing competition.

Yunnan Coffee Cup 2018 - China Brewers Championship is under the guidance of the Yunnan provincial department of agriculture, China Coffee League, and the Guangzhou Vocational School of Tourism and Business.



Jessica Tong

The industry competition is held in accordance with international standards.

Jessica Tong, managing director of Seng Pan International Limited, told the Times that this is the first time that the Chinese coffee brewing competition has been held in Macau, and also said that this competition is one of the most important in the coffee industry in China.

"This brewing competition is hosted in Macau for the very first time, [...] with the aim of promoting the coffee brewing culture in Macau and the coffee culture in universities," Tong told the Times.

According to Tong, the competition also aims to provide an international standard platform to share knowledge amongst all coffee lovers in Macau.

The top three contestants will be entitled to represent Macau at the final competition in Guangzhou held from November 15 to 18.

Tong also explained to the Times that Macau is looking forward to promoting the local specialty coffee, the brewing techniques and the development of coffee culture in colleges and universities.

By providing a communication channel for coffee lovers and an event to broaden the vision for university students about the coffee industry, the organizers hope that the competitors will step into the international coffee brewing platform in the future.

Tong hopes that university students can have a higher degree of happiness by adopting a "coffee culture."

Speaking about Macau's coffee industry, Tong said that, currently, Macau imports most of its coffee from Brazil, and that in January 2019, the local coffee industry is expecting to strengthen coffee trade with East Timor.

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Red Market rebuilding to keep internal structure and decoration

THE rebuilding plan for the Red Market proposes to retain the market's internal characteristics, according to the plan's details revealed this week by the Urban Planning Committee.

The Red Market is one of the items listed by the city's cultural heritage protection law. The planning draft proposes dividing the red street market building and its surrounding buildings into two areas.

The Red Market's architecture is to have its full façade preserved, and no height increase will be allowed.

All internal characteristics, including the space arrangement and the decorations, are required to be kept.

In addition, the current characteristics of the fences should also be maintained.

All buildings surrounding



the market will be restricted to their current height.

The public can submit their opinions on the draft until November 6.

The Red Market is classified as an immovable property in Macau under the category of buildings of architectural in-

terest. This market opened in 1936, selling vegetables and other fresh food supplies.

The two-story brick building is symmetrical in layout, has a clock tower in the middle and a watchtower in every corner. It is a typical example of modern architecture.

Slight increase y-o-y in September tourists

VISITOR arrivals totaled to 2,561,274 in September, up by 3 percent year-on-year but down by 24.7 percent month-to-month, according to information released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Meanwhile, overnight visitors (1,408,326) and same-day visitors (1,152,948) grew by 1.9 percent and 4.4 percent respectively year-on-year. The average length of stay of visitors increased by 0.1 days year-on-year to 1.4 days, with that of overnight visitors rising by 0.2 days to 2.4 days. The average length of same-day visitors stayed at 0.2 days.

Visitors from mainland China increased by 5.7 percent year-on-year to 1,820,269 in September, while those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme rose by 10.3 percent to 788,426. Mainland visitors came primarily from Guangdong Province (719,062) and Hunan Province (91,921). Visitors from South Korea (58,246), Hong Kong (444,005) and Taiwan (82,999) dropped by 4.4 percent, 1.6 percent and 3.7 per-

cent respectively. Meanwhile, visitors from the United States (13,448) and the United Kingdom (4,108) registered year-on-year increases, whereas those from Australia (6,614) and Canada (4,326) decreased.

According to DSEC, in the first nine months of 2018, visitor arrivals totaled to 25,813,264, up by 8.3 percent year-on-year; overnight visitors (13,612,547) and same-day visitors (12,200,717) grew by 7.7 percent and 9 percent respectively. The average length of stay of visitors increased by 0.1 days year-on-year to 1.3 days, with that of overnight visitors (2.2 days) rising by 0.1 days and that of same-day visitors (0.2 days) remaining unchanged. Analyzed by country or place, visitors from mainland China (18,221,155) and Taiwan (803,987) rose by 13.3 percent and 0.2 percent respectively year-on-year, while those from South Korea (607,701) and Hong Kong (4,545,754) dropped by 5.7 percent and 2.4 percent respectively.

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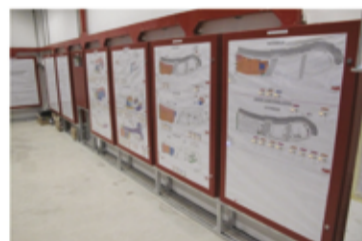


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GTEF 2018

Empowering local communities vital for tourism boost

Lynzy Valles

TOURISM has transformed from an attraction to an experience and now to an emotion. Thus, tourism entities are aiming to build an “emotional connection” through gastronomy and destinations in their region.

For UNESCO, it highlights that the organization wants to change the phase of travel, considering that perhaps it has evolved too quickly, having too many destinations without experience.

According to a panel yesterday at the Global Tourism Economy Forum (GTEF), empowering local communities is one of the most significant ways to further promote local tourism, gastronomy and culture.

The president of International Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (IGCAT), Diane Dodd, said that it is crucial to work with the region's different sectors to build together its own tourism legacy and to boost building partnerships.

“This is a great way of building momentum within a region, to build pride and cultural food diversity and also to innovate on that and build new experiences,” she said.

“We keep hearing about experiences, but it's the hardest part for many regions. So we insist on the culture and creative sectors being involved,” Dodd added.



Diane Dodd (second from right)

IGCAT works with regional stakeholder consortiums in the fields of gastronomy, culture, arts and tourism, and aims to empower local communities by “guiding, facilitating, and supporting leaders in regions to understand the potential of their distinct food, culture, arts and sustainable tourism assets.”

Dodd also emphasized that the trend among young independent travelers is about being given a unique experience in a region they are visiting, which implies that tourism offices should constantly innovate and provide new experiences including gastronomy, destinations and relationship with locals.

“Empowering local communities is at the essence because we're realizing that people are becoming detached from traditional knowledge about their food and where it comes from,”

said Dodd.

“Promoting cultural and food diversity, and the richness of that and building pride in the citizens again is absolutely essential, and it's sustainable tourism that is allowing us to do that,” Dodd added.

Since there has been an increase in the number of independent travelers and 'foodies,' these sectors are said to become more interested in elements that are described as “unique and distinct.”

“This is helping in the process of rebuilding citizen's pride in their own food culture,” Dodd explained.

Commenting on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, Dodd noted that the intercultural dialogue between the three regions would boost more travel and exchange.

Yet she warned that people should be careful to balance a globalized food diet

with the regions' local food.

“This is really beautiful but also we also need to take care to innovate because if we don't make this relevant for contemporary audiences, it will also fail. The young people are happy to have authentic, traditional [cuisines] but they also want the elements of innovation and surprise. And that's the story they are telling,” Dodd added.

Meanwhile, director of the Macao Government Tourism Office, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, echoed the same sentiments, adding that it aims for all sectors in the region to move forward by combining gastronomy.

People are becoming detached from traditional knowledge about their food and where it comes from.

DIANE DODD

“Coming into the future, it's very important to keep the momentum going and [...] we want to actually focus people's attention on what food has to do with our normal ways of life and really get people thinking about it, [which] also helps to preserve our culture.”

Fernandes presented the SAR's work plan on the Creative City of Gastronomy during the panel. She mentioned that the application for the UNESCO City of Gastronomy had brought the city closer, as it invited experts from different fields to work on the application.

Brazil, Argentina, partner countries of GTEF 2019

THE Global Tourism Economy Forum came to a close yesterday, announcing that Argentina and Brazil will be its Partner Countries next year, while Jiangsu will be the Featured Chinese Province of the forum.

The closing ceremony yesterday at MGM Cotai was attended by Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, the newly delegated UNWTO Tourism Ambassador, Pansy Ho, and Edmund Ho, vice-chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, amongst others.

Under the theme “Strategic Partnership in a New Era, Rising Momentum for a Shared Future”, the two-day event featured a series of discussions and exchange sessions, as well as business matching activities and an exhibition, among other program highlights.

The last day of the forum featured keynotes on “Tourism Development in the Greater Bay Area” and “Building a Travel Ecosystem and a New Lifestyle” as well as discussion panels including one themed “Greater Bay Area Session Part I – China Enterprises Perspective,” amongst others.

Sessions on Youth Leaders Roundtable Meeting in cooperation with Greater Bay Area Youth Federation, “China Outbound Tourism” in cooperation with Ivy Alliance, “Gastronomy, Creativity, Tourism” in cooperation with UNESCO, were also held.

A lunch presentation was also hosted by the European Union at Grand Hyatt Macau to introduce the unparalleled tourism attractions across Europe.

In Tam's closing remarks, he noted, “GTEF has shared new insights, explored business opportunities and extended the positive impact of tourism on the economy to different sectors and geographic regions.”

He added that the SAR is looking forward to forging ahead with its collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, combining training resources and tourism facilities in a bid to provide professional training for government and industry personnel from developing countries in the field of tourism.

“In the days ahead, we will pour a greater effort into building new avenues and bridges among countries and regions, and facilitate collaborative partnerships between the public and private sectors in the field of tourism,” Tam pledged. **LV**

corporate bits

SANDS WELCOMES FIRST BATCH OF HKZMB PASSENGERS



Sands China Ltd. has welcomed its first group of guests to arrive via the new Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. The guests' arrival at The Parisian Macao makes Sands China the first inte-

grated resort operator in Macau to receive guests arriving from the 55-kilometre bridge.

According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, the guests were given

a welcome by The Parisian Macao's Streetmosphere entertainers before a reception of light refreshments in their honor at the Parisian ballroom.

The several busloads of passengers arrived at The Parisian Macao at 11 a.m., after having departed earlier that morning from Hong Kong.

“Our warmest congratulations on the opening to traffic of the HKZMB, the world's longest cross-sea bridge,” said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. “The opening of this mega bridge marks another milestone in cross-border integration.”

FIRST HKMO EXPRESS ARRIVES AT GALAXY



Following the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge yesterday,

Galaxy Entertainment Group's executives and HKMO Express representatives, joined by several guests, gathered at the

Diamond Lobby Entrance of Galaxy Macao at 8 a.m. to welcome the HKMO Express shuttle before its first trip to Hong Kong.

According to a press statement, the gaming operator's

representatives presented the passengers with travel sets as souvenirs to mark the memorable occasion.

At about 11 a.m., the first HKMO Express shuttle from Elements arrived at Galaxy Macao and were also given souvenir travel sets.

HKMO Express came into operation at 9 a.m. yesterday, providing cross-border shuttle service with stops in Macao's Central District and Cotai Strip and Hong Kong's Shanghai Street and Elements shopping mall. The shuttle departures will run from 7 a.m. until 4:30 a.m. every day.

Kiosks selling HKMO Express tickets are now available at Galaxy Macao and Starworld Hotel.

HONG KONG

Lawmaker takes loan at 18 percent interest to buy property

JUST how attractive is Hong Kong property? A stock exchange filing from Tuesday evening shows that some people will continue to pay up for the chance to buy in.

Hong Kong businessman and lawmaker Peter Wong Man Kong will pay an 18 percent interest rate on one of three loans to buy a property in Deep Water Bay, an area known for luxury homes.

The details were reported to the exchange because Wong is an independent director of finance company Sun Hung Kai & Co. A unit is extending the HKD155 million (USD19.8 million) of loans, making the deal a "connected transaction" requiring public disclosure.

Wong's deal comes as Hong Kong's property market, on a bull run for most of the past 15 years, is showing signs of cooling. While much of the money he's borrowing is at 7.6 percent, one loan is at 18 percent and an installment of another loan is at 19.6 percent.

While stock exchange rules allow the arrangement, activist

investor David Webb doesn't like it. "It's hard to be independent of someone who has a mortgage on your property," Webb said by email. "Investors should not consider him to be independent, even if the stock exchange does."

A non-executive director's independence is more likely to be questioned if the director is financially dependent on the listed issuer or its units, according to HKEX's listing rules. "I'd say someone who finds it necessary to borrow from a non-bank lender at high interest rates is "financially dependent" on that lender," Webb said.

No comment was immediately available from Wong, who's a life honorary chairman of Hong Kong's Chinese General Chamber of Commerce and a delegate to the Chinese legislature, according to the chamber's website. He serves as independent non-executive director for listed companies including MGM China Holdings Ltd. and Far East Consortium International Ltd. **Bloomberg**

SINGAPORE

Shoe-box rule may cheer home buyers, not home builders

PUTTING an end to "shoe-box sized" apartments in Singapore may be reason for residents to cheer but for developers, it could prove a double whammy.

Already hit in July by cooling measures that make it more expensive to buy and redevelop older apartment blocks, home builders have now been told there's a cap on the number of units allowed in any one project. While the move is aimed at stopping ever-smaller dwellings, for developers it may necessitate a pricing rethink that could dent profitability.

"The July curbs put the handbrake on en-bloc transactions," said Nicholas Mak, head of research at real estate consultancy ZACD Group Ltd. New rulings on unit sizes "could actually have a higher impact."

Developers in the city-state have to shell out almost 9 percent more for land acquisitions following the latest round of



cooling measures. That, coupled with the fact they now have to build larger apartments, might force companies to lower selling prices in order to shift stock, Mak said.

New guidelines on unit size, released last week, effectively trim the maximum number of apartments allowed in a project by 18 percent. The changes will only affect developments outside of central areas and will come into effect early next year, the Urban Redevelopment Authority said.

The measures are meant to address concerns that housing in Singapore is becoming ever more

cramped. Still, the problem is nowhere near as bad as in Hong Kong. Last year, a developer there was signing up tenants for a project with a "usable floor area" of about 5.7 square meters. That makes Singapore's average of 85 square meters seem positively spacious by comparison.

Projects being launched this year probably won't be impacted by the new size guidelines because they would have already received government approval. But home buyers eyeing condominiums coming online in 2019 might want to watch out for good deals, Mak said. **Bloomberg**

AD



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TRADE WAR

No US high-ranking officials to attend Shanghai investment fair

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

THE U.S. will not send a high-ranking official to attend a major investment fair in China next month, an embassy official said yesterday, in a move underscoring worsening trade friction between the world's two largest economies.

Speaking on routine condition of anonymity, the official said, "China needs to make the necessary reforms to end its unfair practices that are harming the world economy."

"The U.S. government has no current plans for high-level U.S. government participation" in the expo, the official said. "We encourage China to level the playing field for U.S. goods and services."

State media reported that the first-ever China International Import Expo scheduled for Nov. 5-10 in the financial hub of Shanghai has attracted more than 2,800 companies from

AP PHOTO



130 nations.

The fair aims to advertise China's importance as a market for foreign goods and recent moves to encourage trade and investment amid accusations that it discriminates against foreign

companies and unfairly demands they hand over crucial technology.

The event comes as the U.S. has raised tariffs to up to 25 percent on USD250 billion of Chinese goods with the possi-

bility of more such measures to come. Beijing has responded with its own tariff hikes on \$110 billion of American imports.

"China needs to make the necessary reforms to end its unfair practices that are harming

the world economy," the embassy official said. "China's return to the path of economic reform and sincere commitment to market-based trade and investment norms would be good for the United States, the world and ultimately good for China."

Neither Beijing or Washington has shown any sign of backing down, despite China reporting growth in its \$12 trillion-a-year economy slowing to a post-global crisis low of 6.5 percent over a year earlier in September. China's stock market has also sagged 30 percent since January.

In response, Beijing has cut tariffs, promised to lift curbs on foreign ownership of auto producers and taken other steps to rev up growth.

But leaders have refused to scrap plans such as "Made in China 2025," which calls for state-led creation of Chinese champions in robotics and other technologies, seen as a major threat to the U.S. and other advanced economies.

U.S. President Donald Trump has also accused China of seeking to interfere in next month's midterm elections, while offering no proof, and tensions have risen as well over arms sales to Taiwan and Beijing's territorial claims in the South China Sea. **AP**

FOES CLOSER

Abe vows to bolster ties with China day before Beijing trip

PRIME Minister Shinzo Abe vowed to bolster cooperation and friendship between Japan and China in a key policy speech yesterday before making the first official trip to Beijing by a Japanese leader in seven years.

Abe said Japan and China are both responsible for the region's peace and prosperity, which he hoped to achieve by boosting exchanges between them. Abe will hold talks with Chinese leaders Xi Jinping and Li Keqiang during his three-day visit.

"Tomorrow I will visit China," Abe said. "As we unflinchingly exchange summit diplomacy, I will also deepen the exchanges between the two peoples in all levels of activities from business cooperation to sports."

Abe's visit comes as the two countries mark the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Japan-China Peace and Friendship, and follows Li's visit to Japan in May.

AP PHOTO



Abe hopes to make progress on maritime security and the contentious development of undersea gas deposits in the East China Sea. They are also expected to discuss North Korea and the U.S.-China trade disputes.

Abe opened the new parliamentary session after being re-elected last month to head his governing party. Now 64, he has been prime minister since December 2012 and is determined to remain Japan's leader for three more years.

In his policy speech, Abe also said he wants to close unfinished World War II diplomatic legacies by also aiming to normalize ties with North Korea and resolving territorial disputes and sign peace treaty with Russia.

"Now is the time for Japan to sum up its postwar diplomacy and to build the foundation of peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region in a new era," he said.

He also touched on his foremost ambition of revising the U.S.-draf-

ted pacifist constitution drafted by the U.S. after Japan's World War II defeat, though the hurdles to doing so remain high.

Abe also pledged to accept more foreign workers to tackle a severe labor shortage. His government is preparing new legislation that would open up more jobs for foreigners in nursing, construction, tourism, housekeeping and other areas. It's a major shift for a country that has long resisted having more non-Japanese residents. **AP**

Ford revamps China business, hires former Chery exec as CEO

FORD Motor Co. has revamped its Asian operations and made its China business a stand-alone unit, recruiting the head of local automaker Chery Automobile to be its new CEO.

The company said yesterday that industry veteran Chen Anning will replace Jason Luo, who quit earlier this year, just months after taking over at Ford in China.

The company has been reorganizing after losing momentum as the Chinese market slows. It said the restructuring was aimed at accelerating its return to profitable growth.

"Success in China is critical as we reposition our global business for long-term success," said Ford President and CEO Jim Hackett. "With today's actions, we are strengthening our commitment to the China market and reorganizing our international markets to strengthen their performance."

By having a separate China business, the company

intends to move more quickly and strengthen local leadership within the company.

U.S.-educated Chen spent the first 17 years of his 25-year career at Ford.

The company is in the midst of renewing its product lineup in China and has announced plans to increase local production for both Ford and Lincoln models. It has a joint venture with Zotye on small electric vehicles and has set alliances with online giants Baidu and Alibaba.

China's auto sales shrank 12 percent in September from a year earlier, the third straight month of declines as demand weakens as the economy cools.

Total sales growth in the first nine months of this year was just 0.6 percent compared with the same period of 2017.

Weak demand is a setback for global automakers like Ford that are looking to China to drive revenue and are spending heavily to develop models for local tastes. **AP**

LEON METRO LIVE

OCTOBER 27, 2018

HONG Kong 'Heavenly King' Leon Lai will bring October to a close with a bang with Leon Metro Live on October 27. Having performed over 400 concerts, Lai, brings to the Cotai Arena a series of his freshly rearranged hits – some with a Broadway theme – brought to life with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment on an open stage. The show promises a spectacular live experience for Lai's many fans across the region.

Lai rose to fame as one of the Cantopop 'Four Heavenly Kings' of Hong Kong – a nickname for the other SAR's four most popular male singers in the 1990s – and has gone on to release numerous best-selling records and movies, as well as philanthropy and community work on the side.

**JEFF CHANG 【CONTINUUM】**

NOVEMBER 3, 2018

LESS than a week after Leon Lai completes his stint at the Cotai Arena, Taiwanese balladeer Jeff Chang will fill the void with Jeff Chang World Tour 【Continuum】 in Macao on November 3. The Mandopop star described his latest global tour as a showcase of his hopes and dreams for himself and the world.

Chang, 51, has gone on record as being remarkably hands-on with the planning of his latest tour, from concept and performance to stage design, costuming and even the set list – which includes songs he has never performed live.

Chang's melodious countertenor voice has earned him the nickname 'Prince of Love Ballads' among Chinese audiences. He debuted in 1989 and has since recorded a slew of successful albums in Mandarin, Cantonese and English. In 2016, he participated in the fourth season of Chinese reality show "I Am a Singer", where he finished as runner-up.

**JANE'S SECRET**

NOVEMBER 10, 2018

NEXT up is Chengdu-born singer-songwriter Jane Zhang, who will appear at the Cotai Arena on November 10. Famed for her whistle register, Zhang, has crafted the Jane's Secret 2018 World Tour around the ideas of magic and mystery, which promises a mystical and surreal experience for concert-goers. Macao is the last stop in the Asian leg of Zhang's world tour, after which she will perform in the USA and Australia.

Zhang's career began when she came in third at the Chinese singing contest 'Super Girl' in 2005, beating almost 120,000 others who auditioned. She released her first album 'The One' in 2006 and subsequently recorded the theme song for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics. She appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show in 2009 and later became the first Chinese singer to perform on the Victoria's Secret stage. Her single 'Dust My Shoulders Off', produced by US artist Timbaland, has had more than 14 million YouTube views and reached top five on iTunes, another first for a Chinese artist.

**KENNY G WORLD TOUR**

NOVEMBER 16, 2018

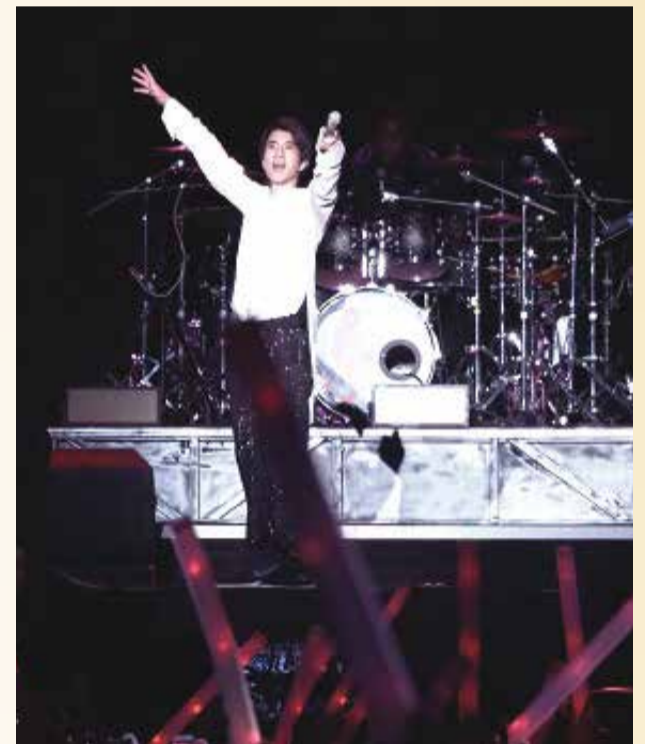
ONE of the world's greatest living musicians is on his way to Macao – and it's none other than legendary saxophonist Kenny G, here for the Kenny G World Tour 2018. Fans will get to experience saxophonic magic up close and personal on November 16 when the acclaimed Kenny G performs at the exclusive Venetian Theatre.

Kenny G, is arguably one of the modern era's most successful musicians. A mainstay of the pop, R&B, and jazz charts during the 1980s and 1990s, his smooth jazz has won him 16 Grammy nominations and sold more than 75 million albums worldwide.

Kenny G turned professional at the tender age of 17 when he started playing in Barry White's Love Unlimited Orchestra, and later got his big break in 1986 with his fourth album 'Duotones'. Apart from his celebrated solo albums, he has collaborated with musical greats such as Whitney Houston, Natalie Cole and Aretha Franklin.



SAN ENTER A NEW ERA OF

**WANG LEEHOM
DESCENDANT OF THE DRAGON**

DECEMBER 1, 2018

TALENTED singer-songwriter Wang Leehom will perform his Wang Leehom Descendants of the Dragon 2060 World Tour in Macao at The Venetian® Macao's Cotai Arena on Dec. 1, 2018. One of the most highly anticipated tours of recent years, the new show is a combination of live action performance and multimedia musical. Featuring the production team from the Grammys, it is a massive technical achievement, with a unique sci-fi stage set in the form of a huge spaceship, sophisticated LED lighting, holograms, animated movies and superb choreography.

Wang says Descendants of the Dragon 2060 World Tour in Macao represents the future of Chinese ethnicity and tradition, and will transport his fans to a brave new world of love, peace and equality. Every 12 years when the Year of the Dragon comes around, he releases a brand new version of the hit track "Descendants of the Dragon", because he wants the song to live on with different creative arrangements, and sing it until it is 2060.

Musically the audience can expect the dynamic fusion of jazz, rock, Chinese opera and blending of Western and Chinese instruments Wang is renowned for. Music with a message, the Chinese-American singer-songwriter has always sought to raise global awareness of Chinese popular music.

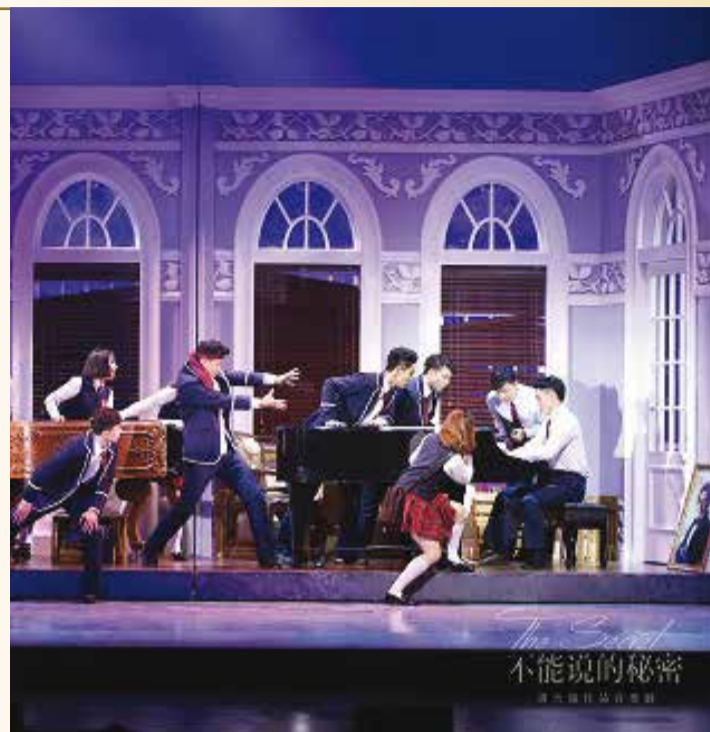
WINDS RTAINS F LIVE SHOWS

THE SECRET MUSICAL

DECEMBER 14 TO 16 , 2018

THE Secret Musical is a time-travelling romance between two high school students who navigate their budding relationship and its milestones – a piano competition, football match and prom night – set to over 20 of Jay Chou's hit singles. The movie version received six nominations at the 44th Golden Horse Awards, among other accolades, and was nominated for 'Best Asian Film' at the 2008 Hong Kong Film Awards.

The stage musical was adapted by a Tony Award-winning team which includes director John Rando, scriptwriter Marc Acito, choreographer Zach Woodlee and many others. It opened in 2017 to sold-out theatres in Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan and Hangzhou, as well as Singapore in April this year.



YIP SAI WING & PAUL WONG

DECEMBER 8, 2018

THOSE nostalgic for the 1980s can celebrate: two members of Hong Kong rock band Beyond – hailed as Hong Kong's biggest and most successful Canto-rock band of all time – are coming to the Cotai Arena.

Yip Sai Wing and Paul Wong, both rock legends in their own right, are teaming up to bring Macao the Yip Sai Wing & Paul Wong Tour on December 8. Yip, and Wong, will play classic anthems such as "Boundless Oceans, Vast Skies", "The Glorious Years", "Truly Love You" and "Amani", which served as the soundtrack for a generation.

MAROON 5

RED PILL BLUES TOUR
LIVE IN MACAO

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 2019 7PM
COTAI ARENA, THE VENETIAN® MACAO

TICKETS FROM MOP/HKD \$699



MAROON 5: RED PILL BLUES

MARCH 3, 2019

MORE music for Macao's ears: Maroon 5, one of the 21st century's biggest and most enduring pop acts, will perform at the Cotai Arena on March 3, 2019. With 2019 marking the 17th year since their debut album 'Songs About Jane', the three-time Grammy Award-winning Los Angeles band stands out in an era of one-hit wonders.

Maroon 5's hybrid rock-R&B sound has sold over 36 million albums and 48 million singles worldwide, earning the band gold and platinum certifications in more than 35 countries. Their fifth studio album, 'V', debuted at number one on Billboard's Top 200 chart and set the record for the most number-one singles in the Top 40 chart's history.

The Red Pill Blues concert shares a name with the band's sixth album, which was released in 2017, and will draw from Maroon 5's extensive catalogue of chart-topping singles. Some of their latest and greatest hits include 'Sugar', 'Maps', 'What Lovers Do', 'Wait' and 'Girls Like You' with rapper Cardi B, which have been streamed and watched billions of times on Spotify, iTunes and YouTube.

LA PARISIENNE CABARET FRANÇAIS

THE family-friendly, 65-minute performance stars an international cast of almost 40 stuntmen, illusionists, skaters and dancers, teaming up to bring Macao one of the world's most entertaining variety shows.

For the performers of La Parisienne Cabaret Français, death-defying stunts are just another day. The world-renowned Globe of Death segment is performed by fourth-generation cast members from Sao Paulo, Brazil, who have trained for years – starting with bicycles. The segment sees riders race inside a gigantic mesh sphere, looping vertically and horizontally at high speed as the globe eventually splits in two.

Lovers of pair skating will appreciate the romantic Ice Skating Adagio by Russians Aleksandr Popov and Elena Efaeva, who have been performing for over four years. Both Popov and Efaeva competed at the European Championships and Olympics; Popov won a gold medal in the Junior Olympics in Slovenia, 2003. Having performed in over 80 countries for many celebrities, their dreamlike double act includes a one-handed lift and a dramatic bow spin.

Another hallmark of the show is the Guinness World Record-winning Face Team Basketball from Budapest, Hungary, which sees six players jump, shoot and slam-dunk 20 basketballs in gravity-defying acrobatics, including a dizzying five-metre backflip. The team has performed for the likes of Harry Styles and the Prince of Dubai – as well as real-life basketball stars LeBron James and Kobe Bryant – and were semi-finalists on talent show "Britain's Got Talent".



ECONOMY

Beijing's squeezed private companies face more funding pain

Tian Chen

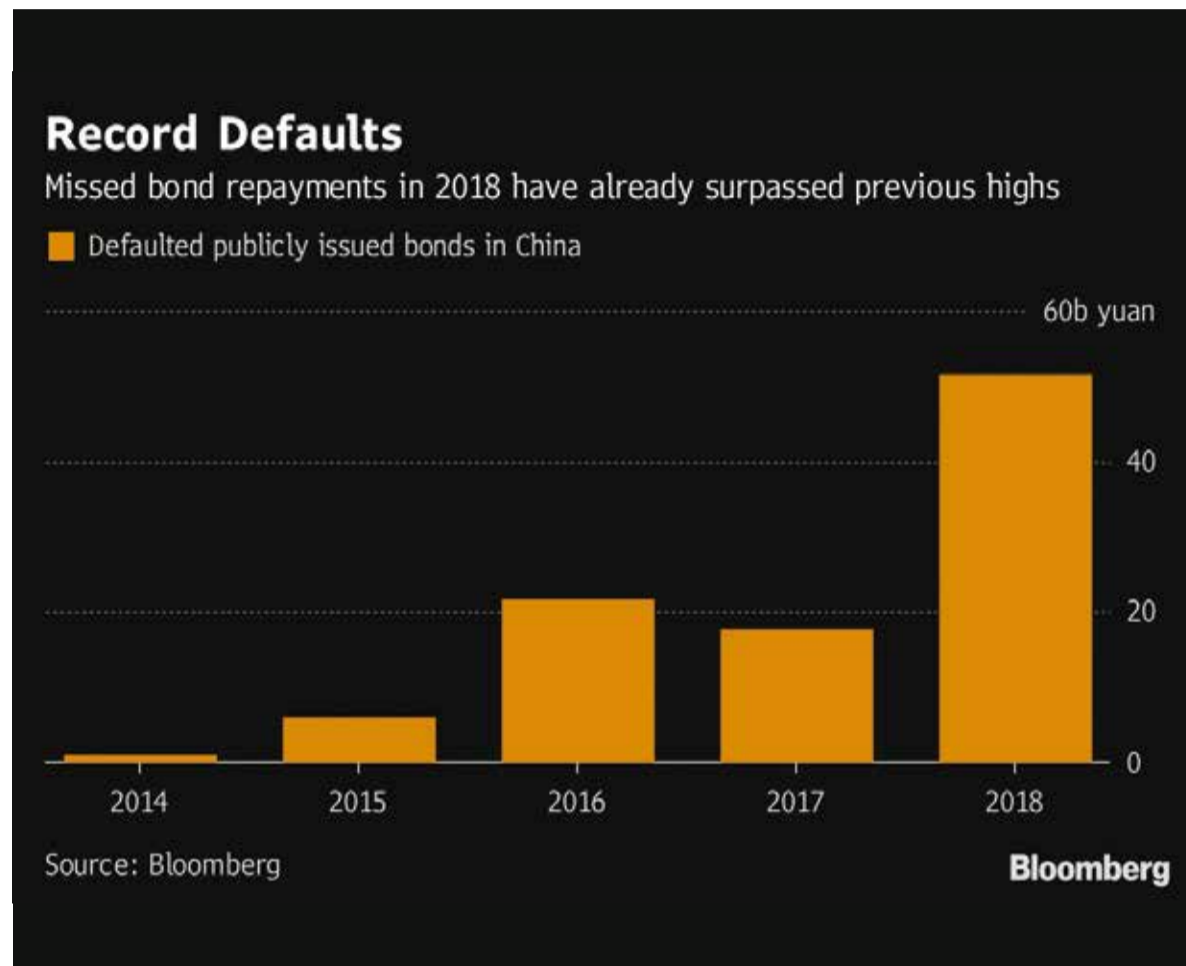
THE funding squeeze for China's private enterprise is expected to persist, despite recent measures aimed at easing financing difficulties.

Non-state companies have borne the burden of the government's two-year deleveraging campaign, as the closing down of funding channels boosted the cost of borrowing and sent defaults to a record high.

Denied loans from mainstream banks because of a lack of state support and collateral, the private sector - which accounts for the majority of China's gross domestic product - has been forced to find other ways to obtain capital. These included turning to shadow banking, issuing bonds and putting up shareholdings as collateral for loans. All these avenues have become more inaccessible or costly at the same time as a trade war with the U.S. threatens to shrink profit margins.

"Because of the market slumps, many people think there is no collateral that's good enough to be pledged for lending to private companies - that is fatal for such firms," said Xia Le, Hong Kong-based chief Asia economist at Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA. "Many companies are already in a liquidity crisis, and that will sustain in the near term. China's economy will fare worse next year as a result."

The People's Bank of China plans to give 10 billion yuan (USD1.4 billion) to a state-backed insurer to provide credit support for debt sales by private enterprises, people familiar with the matter said. That's



part of the plan the central bank announced this week to support such firms, including a 150 billion-yuan increase in financing.

The measures came after President Xi Jinping on Sunday vowed "unwavering" support for non-state companies, which represent more than 60 percent of the economy and 80 percent of employment.

Here is a look at how funding channels have narrowed for private firms:

SHADOW BANKING

Outstanding volume of shadow financing, which includes

entrusted loans, trust loans and bank acceptances, shrank a seventh straight month in September to the lowest since January 2017. Private companies had been reliant on this funding channel in recent years, as banks refrained from lending to firms without government backing amid a slowing economy.

It's getting more difficult to borrow from the non-banking sector nowadays, as officials have intensified a clamp-down on the shadow banking industry - by issuing a flurry of directives on how money is borrowed and managed - since last year to contain financial risks.

CORPORATE BONDS

Chinese corporates with ratings of AA or below, which are considered junk scores that state-backed enterprises rarely get, this year are set to obtain the least amount of funds through bond issuance since 2010, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The figure doesn't include notes issued by local government financing vehicles.

It's harder for them to issue because investors, spooked by record bond defaults, become reluctant to buy. Private firms have defaulted on 62 billion yuan of bonds so far this year,

four times that of 2017. They accounted for 94 percent of all local note failures in 2018, according to Bloomberg data.

SHARE PLEDGING

The outstanding loans listed firms get from pledging their shares - typically done by private companies - shrank for seven consecutive months to 1.46 trillion yuan in August, according to Moody's Investors Service. Securities brokerages are becoming less willing to lend, because the value of the collateral - listed firms' shares - has been dwindling quickly, as the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index has tanked about 30 percent from this year's peak.

Equity sales have also been restricted since February last year when China announced the number of stocks issued in private placements can't be more than 20 percent of a firm's total shares.

BANK LOANS

The outstanding amount of loans lenders made to small and micro businesses grew by just 1.9 percent in the second quarter, the slowest pace since official data were available in 2015. The PBOC cut the amount of cash banks need to set aside as reserves four times this year.

"Historically, Chinese banks have been reluctant to lend to institutions without government guarantees or institutions without fixed assets as collateral," said Logan Wright, a Hong Kong-based director at research firm Rhodium Group, who has covered China since 2006. "It's hard to incentivize banks" to lend to non-state companies.

Bloomberg

TRADE

India is said to plan deal to boost exports to PRC

INDIA is devising a plan to boost shipments of around 200 products to China and narrow the deficit with its biggest trading partner, a person with knowledge of the matter said.

The plan includes seeking duty waiver on a raft of products under the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement, the person said, asking not to be identified as the talks are still on. New Delhi wants China to scrap levies on items including uncombed sin-

gle cotton apart from castor oil, menthol, granite, diamonds and glass envelopes for picture tubes when negotiations for expansion come up in April 2019.

An analysis by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration shows that Southeast Asian nations, Australia, and South Korea among others have competitive advantage over India due to free trade agreements with China. In marine products, especially frozen shrimps

and prawns, India loses its competitive advantage due to tariffs while shipments from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are allowed duty free.

APTA, established in 1975, seeks to create a liberal trading regime between Bangladesh, India, Laos, Korea and Sri Lanka and China. Apart from seeking tariff concessions, the ongoing U.S. and China trade conflict also presents an opportunity to cut down the USD56-billion trade gap it runs with Chi-

na, the person said.

India's Commerce ministry spokeswoman didn't immediately respond to two phone calls to her mobile phone. China's Ministry of Commerce didn't immediately respond to a fax, seeking comments.

But trade experts feel that it is not tariff concession alone that will help India, which lags many of its southeast Asian peers in competitiveness. Also, India shouldn't lose focus on other trade pacts that are being negotiated

including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in its bid to boost exports to China.

"While APTA may be a good idea to pursue, RCEP is a complete package as it would give access to Japan, Australia and other markets too apart from China," Amitendu Palit, a senior research fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, said by phone. "Difference in competitiveness level and non-tariff barriers

imposed by China is a major problem for India."

India has dragged its feet as RCEP doesn't provide for free movement of skilled workers, a key concern for New Delhi given its large pool of tech workers, even as it opens its market to a clutch of nations known for their manufacturing prowess. It is facing pressure from member nations - including Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea - to conclude talks by end of 2019. **Bloomberg**

JUMPEI YASUDA

Japan confirms ID of journalist freed from Syria

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN confirmed yesterday that a man freed from Syria is a Japanese freelance journalist who was kidnapped three years ago and said he appears to be in good health.

The man was identified as Jumpei Yasuda, Foreign Minister Taro Kono said.

"We are extremely pleased that we have confirmed the safety of Mr. Jumpei Yasuda," Kono told reporters. He said Japanese Embassy officials met with Yasuda at an immigration center in southern Turkey near the border with Syria, where he has been protected since he was freed Tuesday. Kono said Yasuda appeared to be in good health.

Yasuda was kidnapped in 2015 by al-Qaida's branch in Syria, known at the time as the Nusra Front, after contact with him was lost in June that year. A war monitoring group said he was most recently held by a Syrian commander with the Turkistan Islamic Party, which mostly comprises Chinese jihadis in Syria.

The news of Yasuda's release came late Tuesday from Qatar, which helped in efforts for his release along with Turkey and other countries in the region, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said, thanking them for their support.



Jumpei talks in Antakya, Turkey, yesterday

Asked if any ransom was paid, Suga said, "There is no fact that ransom money was paid."

Yasuda's parents earlier said they couldn't wait to see their son return home.

"I was just praying for his safe return," his mother Sachiko Yasuda, 75, told Japan's NHK public television as she and her husband stood in front of their home outside Tokyo, holding a "thousand cranes" well-wishing origami ornament that she had added to every day for three years.

Yasuda started reporting on the Middle East in the early 2000s. He was taken hostage in Iraq in 2004 with three other Japanese,

but was freed after Islamic clerics negotiated his release.

His last work in Syria involved reporting on his friend Kenji Goto, a Japanese journalist who was taken hostage and killed by the Islamic State group.

Contact was lost with Yasuda after he sent a message to another Japanese freelancer on June 23, 2015. In his last tweet two days earlier, Yasuda said his reporting was often obstructed and that he would stop tweeting his location and activities.

Several videos showing a man believed to be Yasuda have been released in the past year.

In one video released in July, a

bearded man thought to be Yasuda said he was in a harsh environment and needed to be rescued immediately.

Syria has been one of the most dangerous places for journalists since the conflict there began in March 2011, with dozens killed or kidnapped.

Several journalists are still missing in Syria and their fates are unknown.

Those missing include Austin Tice of Houston, Texas, who disappeared in August 2012 while covering the conflict, which has killed some 400,000 people. A video released a month later showed him blindfolded and

held by armed men, saying "Oh, Jesus." He has not been heard from since.

Tice is a former Marine who has reported for The Washington Post, McClatchy Newspapers, CBS and other outlets, and disappeared shortly after his 31st birthday.

Another is British photojournalist John Cantlie, who appeared in Islamic State group propaganda videos. Cantlie has worked for several publications, including The Sunday Times, The Sun and The Sunday Telegraph. He was kidnapped with American journalist James Foley in November 2012. The IS beheaded Foley in August 2014.

Japanese Embassy officials met with Yasuda at an immigration center in southern Turkey near the border with Syria

Lebanese journalist Samir Kasab, who worked for Sky News, was kidnapped on Oct. 14, 2013, along with a colleague from Mauritania, Ishak Moctar, and a Syrian driver while on a trip in northern Syria.

In March 2014, two Spanish journalists — correspondent Javier Espinosa and photographer Ricardo Garcia Vilanova — were released six months after being kidnapped by an al-Qaida-linked group. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Rush's wife testifies actor wept denying allegations

THE wife of actor Geoffrey Rush cried as she told a Sydney court yesterday how he had wept and curled up in the fetal position following newspaper allegations he had behaved inappropriately toward a female co-star.

Rush himself also admitted to the court he may have described the co-star, Eryn Jean Norvill, as "yummy", but denied this was accompanied by inappropriate hand gestures.

Rush's wife Jane Menelaus, who's also an actor, wept as she appeared in the witness box at Sydney's Federal Court, where her Oscar-winning husband is suing the publisher of Sydney's Daily Telegraph newspaper, and its journalist Jonathon Moran, for defamation.



Australian actor Geoffrey Rush (left) and his wife Jane Menelaus leave the Federal Court in Sydney

The Telegraph's articles in November last year referred to an allegation Rush behaved inappropriately toward his co-star — later revealed to be

Norvill — during the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear in 2015 and 2016.

Menelaus said Rush held her and cried after

he saw the first of two Telegraph articles and said: "This has destroyed everything."

He became uncharacteristically quiet, was "quite fetal at times on the bed," couldn't sleep and groaned every morning, Menelaus told the court.

"For 11 months we've been going round and round in circles, trying to understand why someone would hate us so much," she said on day three of the hearing.

Rush, 67, denies the allegations against him, and argues the paper made him out to be a pervert and a sexual predator.

The paper's publisher, Nationwide News, and Moran are pleading a defense of truth and Norvill — who didn't speak with Moran for the articles —

has agreed to give evidence.

Rush, during cross-examination earlier yesterday, said he might have told Norvill she looked "yummy" during rehearsals but denied suggestions he'd done this while licking his lips, sticking out his tongue and making groping gestures before her torso.

"Yummy has a spirit to it because we are about to go into — most of our scenes together are going to be very dramatic and harrowing, this is a good start," Rush said in response to questions from defense lawyer Tom Blakburn.

He denied suggestions he touched Norvill's lower back under her shirt backstage and deliberately touched or moved his

fingers along her breast during a scene where he carried her.

Rush said he wanted in that moment to "feel the silhouette or the halo of her torso [...] that she is no longer alive" but as he caressed down "it wasn't at breast level, it was down torso level."

Menelaus said her husband had been "totally bamboozled" about what someone could have said about him when he learned that the Telegraph would run their first story about the allegations.

She said he was constantly scanning the internet for what people said about him, and worried his adult children believed the articles and didn't love him as much as before.

The judge-alone trial is expected to last 13 days. **AP**



Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday (right) chats with his younger brother Qusay, at a Baath party meeting in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2001



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

MIDDLE EAST | THE SONS OF TYRANTS

Saudi prince joins pantheon of incendiary Arab rulers' sons

Tamer Fakahany, London

THEY rose to positions of unbridled power because of their bloodline, and those who fell, sometimes in a grisly manner, did so because of what they had done in the family name.

A toxic mix of nepotism and abuses rained mercilessly on the population and kleptocracy has defined several sons of the Arab world's most infamous tyrants.

The killing of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul by agents believed to be close to the kingdom's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has cast him into this ruthless and pitiless pantheon.

Before global outrage caught him by apparent surprise, the brash Prince Mohammed was already heavily questioned in many quarters for the bloody and catastrophic war he has prosecuted in Yemen, his imprisonment and shakedown of other Saudi princes at home, and his interference in Lebanese politics by way of effectively abducting its prime minister.

Notoriety in their own right in each case was cultivated, but when the time came to settle accounts, like Icarus in Greek mythology they had flown too close to the sun, believing in their own omnipotence, having burned legions on the way.

Prince Mohammed seems less likely, at least for now, to meet

such an end as long as his father remains on the throne and the Al Saud succession is not derailed.

The dynamic of brutal and avicious offspring is not unique to the Middle East: the world's best-known autocratic family is the Kim dynasty in North Korea — one that does not look like collapsing any time soon after 70 years. In Africa, Congo still reels from the baton of power being passed on from Laurent Kabila to his son Joseph, 10 days after he was assassinated in 2001.

But it is the lives and brutal actions of the sons of several Middle East dictators over the decades that have made their own bloody and corrupt marks on their nations and well beyond. They have been seared into the collective memory in the first two decades of the 21st century.

Jeremi Suri, a professor of history and public affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, said hereditary succession is not unique to authoritarian states, but they are more likely to be flagrantly violent in the Middle East. That's because intense regional competition and declining prospects at home have driven leaders to paranoia and the international community has shown a propensity to look the other way.

"They are hyper-violent [...], using extreme force to prop up their power for fear of a coming

deluge," he said.

Here's a look at the once, and still, feared scions from Iraq, Syria, Libya and Egypt.

UDAY AND QUSAY HUSSEIN

On the eve of the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, then-President George W. Bush gave Saddam Hussein and his sons 48 hours to leave the country. They didn't. Uday and Qusay Hussein were killed four months later while on the run in a fierce firefight in Mosul. Their bloated and bloodied corpses were broadcast around the world to confirm their demise. Their father was captured alive, then hanged three years later. Before the fall, Uday was feared and reviled for his violent, maniacal and unbalanced tendencies. Tales of his cruelty were legend in a nation where the family ruled by cult of personality, repression, torture and execution. Uday beat a favored bodyguard of Saddam's to death, was accused of multiple rapes, and barely survived an assassination attempt that left him with a limp. The quieter Qusay was thought to be Saddam's preference to succeed him.

THE ASSAD SONS

Bashar al-Assad, an eye doctor educated in the West, was never his father Hafez' choice to take over from him to preserve the Alawite sect's iron control

of Syria. The eldest son, Bassel, had been groomed for the role, rising in the military and praised by the Baath party. But he died in a car crash in 1994. When Assad the father died in 2000 after ruling for 29 years, it was Bashar who took over. Pre-civil war, it was thought in the West that he could be a useful ally in the region. That all changed after the brutal crackdown on Arab Spring protests accelerated into a ruinous civil war that claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Syrians, displaced millions internally, with millions more fleeing overseas, and laid waste to the country's infrastructure. Assad, as far as the West and some Arab states were concerned, was the chief culprit for the carnage wrought. He was on the cusp of defeat and a probable demise not dissimilar to Saddam's family. But Russian military support turned the tide in his favor. Now, with the civil war in its final phases, Assad's rule seems set to continue.

SEIF AL-ISLAM (GADHAFI)

Moammar Gadhafi's rule spanned more than three decades. The Libyan chapter of the Arab uprisings sweeping the region in 2011 spiraled into civil war with atrocities committed both by Gadhafi's forces and popular opposition forces. His son and onetime heir apparent, Seif

al-Islam, had faced charges of crimes against humanity for his role in trying to put down the uprising. Western forces intervened on the rebels' side, with punishing air strikes that proved a major catalyst to Gadhafi's fall. In gruesome images many around the globe saw almost in real-time, Gadhafi was captured in his native Sirte by rebels from Misrata. They humiliated him in his death throes. When his son was captured he was shown with fingers missing, purportedly from an airstrike. Seif al-Islam was pardoned by the Libyan parliament and released in June of this year. He has not been seen in public since then. But a return to power in some form in a chaotically and violently divided nation cannot be ruled out.

THE MUBARAK SONS

With Hosni Mubarak's blessing, his sons Gamal and Alaa plundered Egypt's coffers during their father's decades-long rule. Gamal was the one-time next in line but wasn't thought of as a serious individual outside his father's most inner circle. The brothers along with their father were first detained two months after a popular uprising forced the senior Mubarak to step down in February 2011 after 29 years in power. The trio was later sentenced to three years each for embezzling funds meant for maintenance of presidential palaces. The sons were released in 2015 for time served, while their father was freed last year. The Mubarak brothers have since their release frequently appeared in public, receiving a relatively warm welcome, but drawing the displeasure of powerful backers of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. **AP**

USA

Trump awaits briefing from CIA director in Khashoggi case

PRESIDENT Donald Trump says the killing of a Saudi journalist was a botched operation and a "bad original concept" as his administration has taken its first steps in punishing the Saudis by deciding to revoke the visas of the suspects.

Trump awaited a briefing tomorrow [Macau time] from CIA Director Gina Haspel, who has been in Turkey.

He had told reporters at the White House yesterday that the operation was a fiasco.

"They had a very bad original concept," Trump said. "It was carried out poorly, and the cover-up was one of the worst cover-ups in the history of cover-ups. Somebody really messed up, and they had the worst cover-up ever."

Even in the face of gruesome details of Jamal Khashoggi's slaying, Trump has resisted calls to cut off arms sales to the kingdom and has been reluctant to antagonize the Saudi rulers.



Turkish police crime scene investigator work in an underground car park, where authorities found a vehicle belonging to the Saudi consulate, in Istanbul

Trump considers the Saudis vital allies in his Mideast agenda.

Members of Congress have demanded that sanctions be imposed on Saudi Arabia over the killing of Khashoggi, who lived in self-imposed exile in the U.S. and wrote critically about Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The writer, who was a contributor to The Washington Post, vanished Oct. 2 after

entering the Saudi consulate in Turkey, where he went to pick up documents for his marriage to his Turkish fiancée.

Turkish officials say that a Saudi team of 15 men tortured, killed and dismembered the writer and that Saudi officials had planned the killing for days. Saudi officials — after weeks of denials — now concede that he died, but they say it happened

accidentally in a fight at the consulate.

"It was a total fiasco," Trump said. "The process was no good. The execution was no good. And the cover-up, if you want to call it that, was certainly no good."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the move to revoke visas was just a first step.

Visa records are confidential and Pompeo was not more specific about who the revocations would affect, but the State Department later said 21 "Saudi

suspects" would have visas revoked or would be declared ineligible to enter the U.S.

"These penalties will not be the last word on this matter," Pompeo told reporters at the State Department.

The administration "will continue to hold those responsible accountable. We're making very clear that the United States does not tolerate this kind of ruthless action to silence Mr. Khashoggi, a journalist, with violence," he said. "Neither the president or I am happy with this situation." Still, Pompeo stressed the strategic importance of the U.S.-Saudi relationship.

"We continue to view as achievable the twin imperative of protecting America and holding accountable those responsible for the killing of Mr. Khashoggi," Pompeo said. AP

IRAN CLAIMS US BACKED SAUDI KILLING

IRANIAN PRESIDENT Hassan Rouhani is claiming that Saudi Arabia would not have dared have journalist Jamal Khashoggi killed inside the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul without having some sort of backing from the United States. The remarks follow Turkey's assertion that the writer was killed by a 15-man Saudi hit

squad that included a member of Prince Mohammed's entourage on overseas trips. Yesterday's report by the state-run IRNA news agency quotes Rouhani as saying: "I don't think that without getting support from the United States, a country would dare to commit such a crime." Rouhani offered no evidence for his allegations.

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OCT 31

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what's ON



ASSEMBLAGE OF TREASURES

TIME: 10am-6pm (Last admission 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 19, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum (Mount Fortress)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

BEYOND THE SCENERY: EXHIBITION

COMMEMORATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF WU LI

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 11, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

OKTOBERFEST MACAU

GENERAL ADMISSION: 6pm - 12am

UNTIL: October 29, 2018

FAMILY DAY: 11am - 3pm (October 28)

VENUE: 1/F Roof Terrace, MGM Cotai

ADMISSION: MOP170 (General Admission and Family Day), MOP100 (Industry Day)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 2666

3RD MACAU INTERNATIONAL LANTERN FESTIVAL

TIME: 10:30am-11pm (Sundays to Thursdays)
10:30am-12am (Fridays, Saturdays and public holidays)

UNTIL: October 15, 2018

VENUE: One Central Macau Promenade

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2822 2345

Offbeat

HAWAII BONSAI TREE STOLEN AFTER OWNER RAISED IT FOR DECADES

Hawaii police are trying to find a rare bonsai tree that was stolen from a nursery owner who says he spent 56 years caring for it.

The tree was taken in September from David Fukumoto's nursery in the Big Island community of Mountain View, he said.

Fukumoto began growing the tree in 1962 to spruce up the bare-bones Honolulu apartment he and his wife lived in as newlyweds, he said yesterday [Macau time].

"I ended up getting hooked on growing bonsai," Fukumoto, 78, said, describing how he took it with him when he moved to the Big Island where he runs a nursery called Fuku-Bonsai. "I feel as if they kidnapped my daughter. This is my first bonsai."

Fukumoto said the tree was on higher ground when 3-feet-high flooding from Hurricane Lane wiped out some of his other bonsai trees in August.

Police don't want to reveal the tree's value, Capt. Ken Quiocho said. Police started asking the public for help Tuesday because they have exhausted leads, he said.

"We desperately want to try to find this tree and get it back to the owner," he said.

Police believe the person who took it was familiar with the tree and knew its value, Quiocho said.

"It's 56 years old," Fukumoto said. "How can you put a value on that?"

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Mistura Fina
15:55	Os Craques do Pingue-Pongue
16:45	Quem Quer Ser Millionário
17:40	Moda Portugal Sr.2
18:10	Depois do Adeus
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Todas as Palavras
22:25	Dentro
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:10	Telejornal (Repetição)
00:55	Liga Europa: Sporting - Arsenal (Directo)
03:00	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

17 - 25 Oct



VENOM

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30, 7:30 9:30pm

Director: Ruben Fleischer

Starring: Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 112min



DESTINATION WEDDING

ROOM 2

2:30, 7:30pm

Director: victor levin

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Winona Rider

Language: Cantonese (Chinese, english)

Duration: 130min



PROJECT GUTENBERG

ROOM 2

9:15pm

Director: Felix Chong

Starring: Chow Yun Fat, Aaron Kwok, Zhang Jingchu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese, english)

Duration: 130min

SEARCHING

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Aneesh Chaganty

Starring: Michelle La, Debra Messing

Language: English

Duration: 88min

this day in history



1984 EUROPE GRANTS EMERGENCY AID FOR ETHIOPIA

The EEC is donating £1.8 million to help combat the famine in Ethiopia.

Officials from Oxfam, Save the Children, Christian Aid and the Red Cross believe that up to 10 million people are facing starvation unless the flow of aid is increased.

Aid agencies lobbied EEC ministers in Brussels in response to the latest drought to hit the country.

Hugh McKay from the Save the Children Fund said: "This is an excellent start and will buy us a little time to develop a long term strategy to deal with this tragedy."

The Community has also ordered the immediate shipment of 5,000 tons of food with more to be delivered soon.

The worst affected areas are the northern provinces of Tigre, Wollo and Eritrea, where a 10-year drought and a succession of wars have produced the worst famine in Ethiopia's modern history.

As the announcement was made the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission said it would hold an emergency meeting with Western governments to discuss ways to improve airlifting food to the region.

Local officials are said to be trying to clear congestion at ports to get more food to the rest of the country. Up to 1,000 tons of food a day are now being handled, up from 500 a few weeks ago.

A recent report shown on the BBC highlighted the harrowing problems being faced in Ethiopia and led to an overwhelming public response.

Overseas director of Oxfam Michael Harris said: "On one day alone we received 1,000 calls from people offering help, including three who offered transport aircraft."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

One million people are thought to have died in the famine of 1984 despite money from around the world helping to improve the situation.

In December 1984 rock stars joined together to record "Do they know it's Christmas?". The single raised more than £12 million for famine victims in Africa.

Live Aid in July 1985, organised by Bob Geldof, raised more than £70 million for the cause. Two massive concerts were staged in London and Philadelphia. Artists including Paul McCartney, U2 and Madonna performed on the day.

Many Ethiopians continue to rely on food aid from abroad. In 2004 the government began a drive to move more than two million people away from the arid highlands of the east.

It said the programme was a lasting solution to food shortages.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Try something new and exciting today — your energy is pushing you to new heights. It's a good time for you to explore new territory or to find new ways to do what you love. It's easy!

Taurus April 20-May 20 This is a bad day to make purchases — try to wait until tomorrow or even later, if possible. It may be that something newer and better comes your way, or maybe your finances need attention.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If you get advice today, you should follow it as closely as possible — even if it seems crazy. You are being targeted for improvement by the universe, and any little thing can make a big difference!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You are in a big hurry for some reason — but it's not productive. In fact, you may need to pull back from some obligation in order to give yourself time to slow down and get things done right.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You are taking greater pleasure in ordinary tasks today — in part because you're learning from them. Even the things you've done ten thousand times before are educational now!

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Work may be trouble for you — though not in the usual sense. It may be that you need to stand up to bullying or ask someone to break a bad habit. It's not easy, but it's definitely worthwhile.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your business acumen is sharper than ever — so make the most of it! You may find that you spot flaws in potential deals before anyone else or that you stumble onto a golden opportunity.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're playing with fire today — and you're better off backing away. Things could get ugly if you poke at them too much. Try to ease off and let others think whatever they want to think.

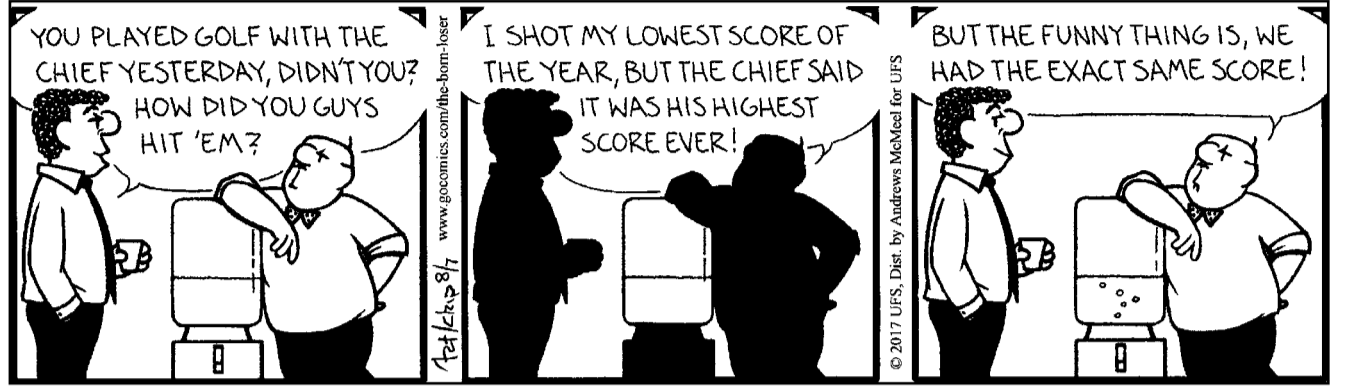
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're playing life like it's a game — and not that silly one with the pink pegs you played as a kid. Have fun with today's terrific energy and see if you can convince other players to join your team!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You feel a responsibility toward others today — which could mean that you're just going along with business as usual. Your energy is perfect for tasks that others need help with, so go for it!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You are starting to sense a pattern at work — one not like what you've seen before. It's a good time for you to watch and wait, because life is just about to get a lot more interesting!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 A cloud is casting a long shadow over your world today — maybe literally, but certainly metaphorically. You need to make sure that you're not taking this all too seriously, as that prolongs the darkness.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

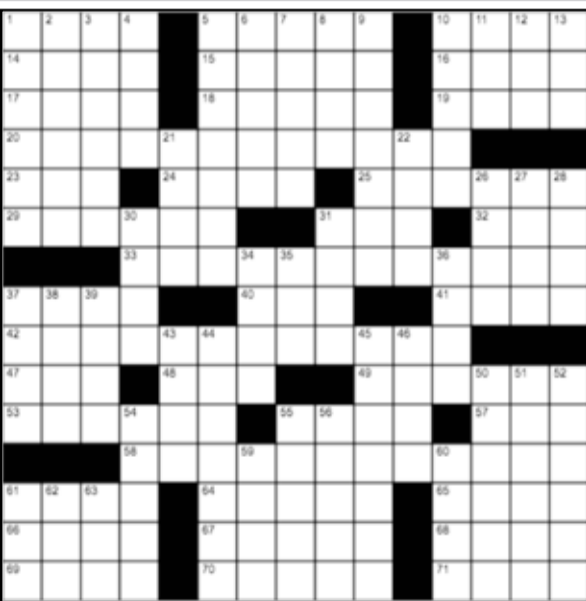
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- High-performance Camaro; 5- Stiller's partner; 10- Harvest; 14- Roman emperor; 15- Gold bar; 16- Scots Gaelic; 17- Deck quartet; 18- Compass point; 19- Faucet problem; 20- Capital of Utah; 23- Golfer Ernie; 24- Buffalo's county; 25- Antelope; 29- Adhere closely; 31- Employ, utilise; 32- End for Siam; 33- Gossip; 37- Bangkok tongue; 40- Sniggler's catch; 41- Long time; 42- Geography; 47- List ender; 48- Western Hemisphere org.; 49- She's a Dah!; 53- Remove the antlers; 55- Tibetan priest; 57- Levy; 58- Guilty of sacrilege; 61- Slang expert Partridge; 64- Shy; 65- Get up; 66- Couch; 67- Mohawk River city; 68- Robert of "The Sopranos"; 69- Ski lift; 70- British buddy; 71- Chair;

DOWN: 1- Momentarily; 2- Remember; 3- Ultimatum words; 4- Price paid; 5- Mosque tower; 6- Japanese mushroom; 7- Be of one mind; 8- Campus military org.; 9- Eager; 10- Color anew; 11- Be off; 12- ___ live and breathe!; 13- Energy; 21- First name in jeans; 22- Take ___ Train; 26- ___ noire; 27- 1952 Winter Olympics site; 28- Sharp; 30- Plugging away; 31- River to the Ubangi; 34- Gumshoes; 35- Maui memento; 36- Chinese weight; 37- Prepared to drive; 38- Loathe; 39- St. Louis landmark; 43- Israeli dance; 44- Sacred place; 45- Day of one's christening; 46- Steep, rugged rock; 50- Prima ballerina; 51- Sickness at the stomach; 52- Thrust out; 54- Movie award; 55- Boundary; 56- Wonderland girl; 59- Actress Hayworth; 60- Part of the eye; 61- Superlative suffix; 62- Steal from; 63- ___ tree falls...;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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ManU coach Jose Mourinho sits on the bench during a Champions League football match

FOOTBALL

Mourinho's warning underlines extent of Man United's fall

Steve Douglas, Manchester

THE presence of Cristiano Ronaldo at Old Trafford revived memories of much better times at Manchester United, when England's biggest club had a slew of the world's best players and no trophy felt beyond them.

It was only a decade ago, after all, that United was winning the Champions League and three straight Premier League titles. Ronaldo was the poster boy of the generation that included Wayne Rooney, Carlos Tevez, Rio Ferdinand and Paul Scholes.

So, the manner of United's 1-0 loss to Juventus in the Champions League — and the nature of Jose Mourinho's comments

after Tuesday's match — were stark reminders of just how far the team has fallen.

"Since the draw," Mourinho said, "we knew it would be a fight with the Valencia for the second position."

They were remarkable remarks from the manager of a club as huge as United, and it felt like Mourinho's team took that inferiority complex into the game against Juventus.

United's players looked in awe of their opponents — left back Luke Shaw acknowledged as much, saying his team gave Juventus "too much respect" — and had only 28 percent of the possession in the first half. United had only two shots on target in the whole match.

Yet Mourinho wasn't finished there. In lavishing high praise on Juventus and the Italian's club re-emergence as one of Europe's top clubs, he also appeared to be sending a thinly veiled message to United's board.

"A bit far," Mourinho said, when asked how far United was behind Juventus. "Juventus is [Italian] champion for seven years in a row, two Champions League finals in the last four or five years and not happy with what they have. They want more, they want more."

"They had [Gonzalo] Higuain, [Mario] Mandzukic, [Paulo] Dybala, they want more. They want Ronaldo. They had [Andrea] Barzagli, [Giorgio] Chiellini, [Daniele] Rugani, they are

not happy, they want more, they want [Leonardo] Bonucci. And they go for the best players in the world. A big, big club with a big past, but with also a big desire to have a big future."

Just like the United of yesteryear.

Mourinho said his team, essentially, was no longer in the same league as Europe's powerhouses.

"To go to Juventus level? Barcelona level? Real Madrid level? How can we reach that level?" Mourinho asked reporters, adding: "Man City level? How can we reach that level?"

A reply came. "Investment?"

"Yes," Mourinho said.

Yet he had just put out a team containing a center forward

costing USD97 million (Romelu Lukaku), a center midfielder costing a then world-record fee of \$116 million and signed from Juventus (Paul Pogba), while an offseason signing for about \$70 million (Fred) was on the bench, failing to make it on as a substitute.

■ Mourinho said his team was no longer in the same league as Europe's powerhouses

Mourinho has spent more than \$500 million on players since joining United in 2016. Either the money hasn't been spent well or Mourinho isn't getting enough out of them.

Lukaku, for example, has gone eight games without a goal and looks short of confidence playing for United.

"No criticism at all, and a complete understanding that the player is a fantastic professional that wants to give everything for the team," Mourinho said. "But I have to agree his moment is not sweet, not just with the goals he is not scoring but in his confidence, movement, touch. He is not linking the game well with the team."

"But he's our striker and a good striker and a striker we believe in."

Mourinho finished the game by responding to the goading of Juventus' fans by holding up three fingers toward them, denoting the Champions League-Serie A-Italian Cup treble he won with Inter Milan — Juve's rival — in the 2009-10 season.

Just three days earlier, he was sticking three fingers up at Chelsea fans who were hurling abuse at him at Stamford Bridge, a reminder of the three Premier League titles he won at the London club over two spells.

Mourinho continues to hark back to his trophy-laden past.

It's the future he and United have to worry about. **AP**

FOOTBALL

A-League to ask for stadium, TV broadcasts of VAR

THE head of Australia's A-League is hoping international soccer authorities will allow video-assisted referee (VAR) decisions to be shown on television broadcasts and on stadium video boards so that the often contentious calls don't seem like a "silent movie."

Greg O'Rourke says the A-League is working with

Germany's Bundesliga and Major League Soccer in the U.S. to push for communication of the VAR process in stadiums.

"American sport and Australian sport have been used to, for many years, the referees being able to talk in-stadia," O'Rourke said yesterday. He said existing protocols don't "don't allow currently the

VAR to talk in-stadia or even to the commentators, it's a bit of a silent movie. Then what happens [...] is the fan is left to try and interpret why — they're just left to their own devices."

FIFA is the sport's world governing body, and the International Football Association Board, which includes four FIFA members, formulates the laws

and protocols, including future developments of the VAR.

O'Rourke said the National Rugby League in Australia has a good system for its video review decisions.

"The NRL have the bunker talking live to the crowd and stepping through their decision-making," he said. Fans "don't have

to agree with what the bunker guy is saying but at least they can understand his decision-making."

The VAR was criticized twice on the opening weekend in the A-League, both when reviews resulted in penalties being awarded.

Melbourne Victory lost 2-1 to Melbourne City when Bruno Fornaroli's

seemingly innocuous tumble earned a VAR-awarded penalty for City.

It was a similar situation in Wellington, New Zealand, where the Phoenix benefited from a late penalty after Mitch Nichols was taken down well off the ball. The subsequent spot kick sealed his team's 2-1 win over the Newcastle Jets. **AP**

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



WHY IS CHRYSANTHEMUM WINE AUSPICIOUS?

The Chung Yeung Festival 重陽節, one of the main Chinese festivals of the year, took place one week ago. Two years ago I wrote about how the Chung Yeung Festival was not originally for ancestors' worship as it is being practiced nowadays. The festival started as a commemoration of a village that escaped a catastrophic plague by climbing up a high mountain carrying zhuyu (cornelian cherry) and drinking chrysanthemum wine on the 9th day of the 9th month of the year.

This year, I intend to investigate the two things that those villagers carried with them to the mountain in their attempt to escape from the plague: zhuyu and chrysanthemum wine. What was so special about them that protected the villagers from a plague that killed all livestock left behind in the village?

Firstly, zhuyu (cornelian cherry) is no simple cherry. According to traditional Chinese medicine records, zhuyu is documented as having the effect of painkilling, soothing diarrhea and alleviating stomach pain. Legend has it that cornelian cherry was originally named wuyu during the period of the Warring States, between 770 B.C. and 221 B.C. Once, an envoy for the Wu State brought some wuyu on behalf of the Wu King as an offer to the powerful King of the Chu State. The Chu King was furious, because he considered it an insult that the Wu State did not offer him gold and jewels as everyone else did. Without inquiring what it was that the Wu envoy offered, the King sent him out of his State. But an imperial doctor named Zhu learnt of the powerful medicinal effect of the wuyu and secured the cherries.

The next year, the Chu King suffered from serious stomach pain, and was cured at once after taking medicine made from the wuyu. Knowing the preciousness of the wuyu, the Chu King at once sent his envoys to apologise to the Wu King. He then named the cornelian cherries 'wuzhuyu', adding the word 'Zhu' after the doctor Zhu who kept the cherries, which had cured his sickness. Over the years, 'wuzhuyu' has become better known as 'zhuyu'.

The Chung Yeung Festival story only mentioned villagers carrying zhuyu with them to the mountain, so the tradition was to wear the cherries on one's arm. However, given the record of the medicinal power of zhuyu, the villagers were saved probably not just by carrying zhuyu, but by taking them. Thus, this implies that the legendary plague that started the Chung Yeung Festival was probably some sort of food poisoning leading to death from diarrhea, which was not uncommon in the ancient days. But there is no way to find out.

Let's move to the chrysanthemum wine, considered in ancient China to be an 'auspicious wine' because it was believed to bring longevity. This belief is of course rooted in the Chung Yeung Festival story. Aside from carrying zhuyu, the villagers were saved from the plague because they drank chrysanthemum wine.

Even in the "Compendium of Materia Medica", the Chinese herbology volume, chrysanthemum wine is recorded as a high-value medicine. It has long been believed to have various healing effects including reducing internal heat, protecting one's liver and eyesight, and exhibiting anti-inflammatory, detoxification, anti-aging, and anti-tumor properties, making it a health as well as a beauty supplement for females. As for the opposite sex, chrysanthemum wine is also believed to be good at strengthening kidneys and providing "essence" for men. Therefore, it is believed to be a cure for almost everything, and hence, leads to longevity.

So, although we have no great grape varieties for high quality wine, we have a flower that can be used to make auspicious wine. Cheers to health and longevity!

THE AGENTS NAB POSSIBLE EXPLOSIVE DEVICES SENT TO OBAMA, CLINTON

The U.S. Secret Service says agents have intercepted packages containing "possible explosive devices" addressed to former President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

The agency says neither Clinton nor Obama received the packages, and neither was at risk of receiving them because of screening procedures.

It says the devices were discovered yesterday in two different occasions.

A U.S. official tells The Associated Press that a "functional explosive device" was found during screening at Bill and Hillary Clintons' suburban New York home.

The official says investigators believe the explosive is linked to one found Monday at the compound of liberal billionaire George Soros.

The Secret Service says a second package was addressed to Obama and was intercepted in Washington.

Winning USD1.6B Mega Millions ticket sold in South Carolina

LOTTERY officials say someone has won the record USD1.6 billion Mega Millions jackpot.

Mega Millions officials said a ticket purchased in South Carolina matches all six numbers in yesterday's drawing [Macau time]. The massive jackpot is the world's largest ever lottery grand prize.

And it's possible that the world will never know the winner.

South Carolina is one of eight states — along with Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, North Dakota, Ohio and Texas — where winners can remain anonymous.

The \$1.6 billion prize reflects the annuity option, paid over 29 years. However, nearly all winners take the cash option, which for Tuesday's drawing was an estimated \$913 million.

The winning numbers were 5, 28, 62, 65, 70 and Mega Ball 5. No details on where the winning ticket was sold were immediately available. But the lucky player overcame miserable odds: The chance of matching all six numbers and winning the top prize is 1 in 302.5 million.

Mega Millions is played in 44 states as well as Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Vir-



gin Islands.

It will likely be days or even weeks before a winner steps forward to claim the prize.

Lottery officials and financial managers encourage people to take time to map out a strategy for investing their hundreds of millions of dollars, and winners must deal with security concerns befitting someone who suddenly is immensely wealthy. Depending on the state, winners have from 180 days to a year to claim their prize.

The Mega Millions jackpot grew so large because it had been nearly three months since a player had matched all six numbers and won the top prize. The last time that happened was July 24, when 11 co-workers from California won a \$543 million prize.

Although Tuesday's jackpot was extraordinarily

large, it's no fluke. It reflects a trend toward ever-growing lottery prizes due to changes in the game that worsened the odds with hopes that bigger jackpots would result in better sales.

Officials with the Powerball game were the first to make that move in October 2015 when changing the odds of winning the jackpot from 1 in 175 million to 1 in 292.2 million. Mega Millions followed suit in October 2017, resulting in the odds worsening from 1 in 259 million to 1 in 302.5 million.

While most attention has been on the Mega Millions game, Powerball also has been soaring. The estimated prize for Powerball's annuity option in Wednesday night's drawing is \$620 million, with a cash prize of \$354.3 million. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Zhang Jiayang



A day to remember: People walk at the Zhuhai Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (see more on page 2,3)

Station	Air quality
Roadside	80-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	80-100 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



RUSSIA President Vladimir Putin and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte (pictured) vowed yesterday to expand economic ties between their two countries despite European Union sanctions against Russia. Conte, on his first trip to Russia, invited Putin to visit Italy in the near future.

CYPRUS Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says he believes prospects for a comprehensive settlement that will reunify Cyprus "remain alive" and he will prepare the way for negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriots to resume.



GERMANY The government is putting pressure on the country's automakers to fix their diesel cars that have excessive emissions, in a bid to placate drivers angered by the prospect of diesel driving bans in major cities.

BRITAIN Smugglers and other organized criminals are likely to exploit gaps in border enforcement if Britain leaves the European Union without an agreement, a government watchdog cautioned yesterday amid widening warnings about the disruptive impact of a "no-deal" Brexit.



MEXICO Hurricane Willa swept onto Mexico's Pacific mainland with 120 mph winds, hitting an area of beach towns, fishing villages and farms after roaring over an offshore penal colony.

VENEZUELA Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie said the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans from their country has led to a "shocking" migrant crisis in South America that was "predictable and preventable."